GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5173
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
RAISING OF FUNDS THROUGH NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES
SUBODH ROY;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal for raising Rs.1000 crore from `non-conventional sources` in Railways; and

(b) the success achieved so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b): A target of Rs. 750 crore for mobilisation of resources from non-traditional sources has been kept for the year 2000-01. This comprises Rs. 500 crore from the use of right of way for laying optic fibre cables, Rs. 150 crore from commercial utilization of land and airspace and Rs. 100 crore from commercial publicity at Railway premises and on rolling stock.

Railways have formed a Corporation to build a nation-wide broadband telecom and multimedia network by laying Optic Fibre Cable along the railway track to generate income. A consultant has been engaged to prepare a Business Plan for the Corporation. The consultant is also assessing the value of Railways` `right of way` and other telecom assets. After deciding the financial structure of the Corporation, a part of the value is expected to be realised by the Railways in the current year. As regards commercial utilization of land and airspace, a number of sites have been identified for commercial development. The earning figures will be known only at the end of the financial year.